National Aeronautics and
Space Administration

Headquarters
Washington, DC 20546-0001

NOV 1 5 2007

Reply to Attn of: **Office of the Chief Information Officer**

TO: Distribution

FROM: Deputy CIO for Information Technology Security

SUBJECT: Agency Security Configuration Standards: Federal Desktop Core Configurations

Protecting NASA's Existing Systems
This compliance letter is in response to the following recent events:
* The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) released the new Federal Desktop Core Configurations (FDCC) for Microsoft Windows XP and Vista operating systems.
* The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Memoranda M-07-11 (March 2007), M-07-18 (June 2007) and the E-Gov Memo (July 2007) mandated the use of FDCC standards by all Federal Agencies by February 2008.
* Investigations have shown that the greatest vulnerabilities in NASA's information systems are a result of improper configurations.

NASA established the Agency Security Configuration Standards (ASCS) project in order to secure NASA's systems, help Centers meet the requirements for configuring and reporting on their IT systems, and comply with mandatory Federal IT configurations as part of the annual FISMA report.

The NASA OCIO has established the following milestones:
* July 31, 2008
  Compliance Goal: 85% of all Windows XP and Vista systems at all Centers must be compliant with the FDCC configurations. Organizations anticipating difficulty meeting this goal should strongly consider the use of ODIN-supplied systems, as stated in MFR 137.
* April 1, 2009
  Compliance Goal: 100% of Windows systems must run FDCC compliant versions of Windows Vista.

NASA will address compliance with FDCC standards for additional operating systems as they are released by NIST. Centers must continue to implement the CIS Benchmarks for operating systems not covered by the FDCC, and they must deploy Patchlink reporting in accordance

with the OCIO's previously published guidance. However, all deviations from CIS Benchmarks and FDCC configurations now require written approval in accordance with the ASCS Deviation Documentation Process.

Centers are required to do the following:

- Commence monthly ASCS compliance reports in January 2008 with the deployment of Patchlink 6.5, which will be capable of determining whether IT assets comply with the FDCC configurations.
- Submit a high-level schedule demonstrating ASCS compliance. Please complete the enclosed implementation schedule and submit to Tony Facca at Tony.Facca@nasa.gov by December 14, 2007.

Deploying Windows Vista
On July 12, 2007, NASA-STD-2804K established policy related to the deployment of Microsoft Windows Vista:

3.3   Operating System Standards and Compliance Dates
3.3.1 Microsoft Windows
    Windows XP Professional (including service pack 2) is required to be installed on all interoperable Windows systems. Windows XP Home Edition and Windows XP Media Center Edition shall not be deployed.

    Upon Center CIO approval, Windows Vista (Ultimate or Enterprise edition) shall be used on interoperable Windows systems beginning January 2008.   Each Center shall coordinate local Vista deployments with its NASA Consolidated Active Directory (NCAD) deployment to minimize interoperability conflicts.
    By April 2009, all interoperable Windows systems must be running Windows Vista.

This policy is hereby amended to include the following:
    Windows Vista compliance with Federal Desktop Core Configurations is mandatory. In addition, all Vista installations must be configured to comply with all applicable OMB memoranda.
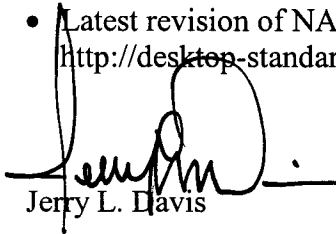
This policy amendment is intended to ensure analogous direction, coordination, and efficiencies for both ODIN and non-ODIN supported systems. Technical staff and IT service providers may make use of pre-deployment Microsoft Vista systems, with temporary relief from FDCC settings, to allow for testing and design. The NASA OCIO policy regarding Vista deployment and FDCC compliance will be reflected in the next update to NASA-STD-2804.

For More Information
If you have any questions regarding this memo, contact Diana Kniffin at 202/358.5696 or Diana.K.Kniffin@nasa.gov. For questions or concerns about FDCC, contact Tony Facca 216/433.8318 or Tony.Facca@nasa.gov.

References

- Applicable OMB Memoranda:
  http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/memoranda/fy2007/m07-11.pdf
  http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/memoranda/fy2007/m07-18.pdf

- Karen Evans (OMB) Memo to Agency CIOs (July 31, 2007):
  http://www.cio.gov/documents/FDCC_memo.pdf

- NASA Guidance FDCC compliance requirements and processes:
  http://desktop-standards.nasa.gov/ASCS/NASA-FDCC.shtml

- Latest revision of NASA-STD-2804:
  http://desktop-standards.nasa.gov/2804K/2804K-Signed.pdf

Jerry L. Davis

Enclosure

DISTRIBUTION:
Center CIOs:
ARC/Sylvia Longchamps (Acting)
DFRC/Robert Binkley
GRC/Dr. Sasi Pillay
GSFC/Linda Cureton
HQ/Les Newell (Acting)
JPL/Jim Rinaldi
JSC/Larry Sweet
KSC/Mike Bolger
LaRC/Cathy Mangum
MSFC/John McDougle (Acting)
SSC/Gay Irby
NSSC/Dave Epperson (Acting)

Mission Directorate CIOs:
Aeronautics/Phil Milstead (Acting)
Exploration/ Beverly Hamilton
Science/Joe Bredekamp
Space Operations/Dan Hedin (Acting)

Due Date: December 14th, 2007
Return To: Anthony A Facca@nasa.gov

Center:
Center Contact:

Background: This spreadsheet is being provided to allow for a standard reporting format for the high level schedule described in the NASA CIO Memo dated Novemeber 14, 2007. Additional information can be found on the ASCS Compliance and Reporting Web Page (http://desktop-standards.nasa.gov/ASCS/NASA-Compliance.shtml).

Instructions:
1) Select a Center Designator at the Center item above.
2) Enter the Email address of the Center Contact who is providing this schedule at the Center Contact item above.
3) Provide the target compliance percentages in the appropriate row for each Benchmark and Date column.
4) Return this spreadsheet to the email address in the Return To cell above, NLT December 14th, 2007.
5) Please DO NOT ALTER the format of the following table as automated processing may be used for submitted schedules.

Benchmark	NASA FY08 Benchmark Version Status or Guidance	Nov-07	Dec-07	Jan-08	Feb-08	Mar-08	Apr-08	May-08	Jun-08	Jul-08	July 31, 2008 Compliance Target	Comments
Apache Web Server	Apply CIS Benchmark										85%	
Apple Mac OS-X (10.4)	Apply CIS Benchmark										85%	
Apple Mac OS-X (10.4) Server	Apply CIS Benchmark										85%	
Cisco IOS Router	Apply CIS Benchmark										85%	
Cisco PIX	Apply CIS Benchmark										85%	
FreeBSD	Apply CIS Benchmark										85%	
HP-UX	Apply CIS Benchmark										85%	
International Business Machines AIX	Apply CIS Benchmark										85%	
Linux RedHat	Apply CIS Benchmark										85%	
Microsoft Exchange Server 2003	Apply CIS Benchmark										85%	
Microsoft Windows 2003 Server	Apply CIS Benchmark										85%	
Microsoft Windows 2000 Professional	Obsolete, Upgrade and apply the corresponding benchmark.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	This operating system is not approved for general NASA use due to its lack of appropriate security support.

Product	Recommended Action										Result / Notes
Microsoft Windows 2000 Server	Obsolete. Upgrade and apply the corresponding benchmark.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	This operating system is not approved for general NASA use due to its lack of appropriate security support.
Microsoft Windows NT	Obsolete. Upgrade and apply the corresponding benchmark.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	This operating system is not approved for general NASA use due to its lack of appropriate security support.
Microsoft Windows Vista	Apply Federal Desktop Core Configuration (FDCC) settings										85%
Microsoft Windows XP Professional SP2	Apply Federal Desktop Core Configuration (FDCC) settings										85%
Oracle 9i/10g	Apply CIS Benchmark										85%
Oracle Database 8i	Upgrade to 9i/10g and apply existing benchmark settings	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	This operating system is not approved for general NASA use due to its lack of appropriate security support.
Solaris 2.5.1-9.0	Apply CIS Benchmark										85%
Sun Microsystems Solaris 10	Apply CIS Benchmark										85%
Wireless Networks	Apply CIS Benchmark										85%